

KŌNFLIKT IN THE KINŌ

Issue 18

WHEN PICTURES AND SOUND COLLIDE THERE ARE FATALITIES

Your Eco-Friendly Adult Film Star

Adult Video News is unlike many of the publications that cover the industry. It takes more of a news-oriented stance on covering the subjects that make up that particular industry. It was there I read about Antonio Biaggi, a gay adult film star (of films such as "Trouser Trout" and the recent roughie XXX western, "To the Last Man") and his new eco-friendly boutique in San Francisco.

While some adult stars might be taking their pay to party, Antonio has used it towards a business geared towards eco-friendly and sustainable goods and living. His store is filled with soy candles, artistic pieces made from recycled materials, and a great place to drop off your old batteries and plastic bags.

As you can see from my interview with Antonio, his story shows us a couple of things. Firstly, some of our preconceived notions of the adult film industry simply are not true (in regards to drugs or partying, and that many treat it strictly as business) and how loved ones can trigger a change in us. In this case, a change in attitudes towards the environment.

Antonio, originally from Puerto Rico, spoke with KŌNFLIKT IN THE KINŌ about what got him down the path of not only living eco-friendly, but also how to move that into business practices which can teach others.

And a wee bit about SEX (Hey, we're all adults!)

KŌNFLIKT IN THE KINŌ / DICH CŌNFLICT:
How did you get the idea to open an Eco-Friendly store, and not being a native to San Francisco, was it difficult for you to figure out that you would have San Francisco not only as your new home, but the launching base for your Eco Boutique?

Antonio Biaggi: I wanted to open a store in Puerto Rico - it was my plan but it was a Fashion store since that's one of the things that I studied. But then I got the news that I was about to have a niece and that made me study more about global warming. It was very sad - the world that she is going to live in - and I decided to open the store in San Francisco since the USA is the worst country in pollution and producing CO₂ in the world. I wanted to teach people about being eco-friendly and providing eco-friendly and socially responsible products. The store is a recycle center for plastic bags, batteries, and small electronics. I like California so it is not a problem living here - the only problem is not having my niece close to me and



Adult film star and Eco-Entrepreneur Antonio Biaggi.

seeing her as much as I would love.

KITK: Have you had a previous business background that you've applied to opening up the store?

Antonio: No experience but I was a manager for a tour company for ten years and I know

a little about business - and every thing that I don't know I will learn with the experience.

KITK: How do you go about finding your product line?

Antonio: I go to green shows and web search - and friends recommended some businesses.

SCRATCHEZ FROM THE D-man

Wow. It's been so long since I've done an intro for this. But do hope you enjoy this long overdue issue. Since the last issue, so much has been up. I've released 2 dvd's ("Second Chance", a very rare William Beaudine flick, has been released by Alpha Home Video), got my production company up and running with a documentary and a music video, and have toured a total of 4 different countries showing films (not including within a period of a year, visiting six). I've since been in German red light areas, Finnish pendolino trains, mountaintops in Kosovo, motels in rust-belts of the United States, and spas in Estonia. I've now enjoyed working on a bigger project (to be released here on December 2nd), and driving on my Moped. With so much new, it's time for a fresh issue of KITK. While I've contemplated wrapping up KITK for good, I believe there's still so much information we need to get out to people and it's great to hear there's been a boom of recent in small print and zine culture. As I discuss later on in my editorial piece on Canada's "bigger" media industry, there is a huge void being filled in our longing for information, and hopefully this leaves you with something you might not have known about, as we learn about the worlds cultures together. Wherever in the world you are reading, thanks again! Drop a line and join our mailing list so you don't miss out on the fun. Thanks again for your support!

Eco Adult Film star

KITK: When doing this venture, do you find that you approach it more as a business, or more about helping people save the planet, or both?

Antonio: I take it as a business but I would like to do more maybe a documentary about the environment. I really like my store and I'm honestly interested in helping people to save the planet. The store will help me to do other

Antonio: The angle that I would like to present is the cause of global warming - people don't imagine what it will be like and if they do have an idea it's nothing compared to what will happen.

KITK: You've got some nice lotions in your store. Do you make them, or is there anything in the store you make yourself?

Antonio: I make my own line of jewelry and organic and bamboo napkins. I do necklaces and earrings from recycled glass beads and other materials - it takes a few hours - it depends on the pieces. And the napkins - I make them with organic fabrics in just a few minutes.

KITK: Being from Puerto Rico, how would you rate them on how they treat the environment?

Antonio: Puerto Rico is not perfect but I have a

memory of people talking of the environment since I was a kid. There is a section in the news called "Susan and the Environment" that has been on the air for more then 15 years, so we do care. There is a net o school, started 7 years ago - net o is that is 100% run by solar power that you don't see in the US.

KITK: There's a lot of talk in the eco-community about goods (being organic, or eco friendly made) in other countries which are brought over here using fossil fuels, which in turn don't do any better for the environment, compared to locally made goods, which might not be so eco-friendly, but leave much less of a carbon footprint. What's your take on this?

Antonio: First the airlines and people will keep traveling - and airlines or certain airplanes have been modified to not do a big footprint,



things that I have in my plans.

KITK: Is it tricky to get locally made eco-friendly products there, and what seems to be some of the "specialty" eco-friendly products indicative of the San Francisco area?

Antonio: I have several artists that do candle holders with wine barrels and ceramics. I have artists that do doll size chairs with champagne caps. Not only local artists but all around the USA and other countries, the use of Gasoline is not eco-friendly but If I help other countries to recycle and make eco-friendly products that is good because global warming is not just one country. It's the entire world.

KITK: Earlier you were saying that you would be interested in making some kind of documentary on an environmental issue. What would your angle/topic be?



KONFLIKT IN THE KINO

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Photo: Outside a cave in Mirusha, Kosovo

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To be added to the CONFLICT ARCHIVES e-mail list or to comment/yammer about KITK, or to send me bad Finnish CD's (I need Illi's!), bootlegs of the Canadian TV show "Just Like Mom" or anything else, contact us at:

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traveling - and airlines or certain airplanes have been modified to not do a big footprint, and using a car is far worse than an airplane. Being eco-friendly is a world movement - not just one country - and if I help and support people in underdeveloped countries to be eco-friendly that helps. Not just one country - but the US is the worst in pollution so we have to learn and I hope more and more people turn their businesses green. That will be great and I won't have to get products from other countries since I can't find quality products that are green in the USA.

KITK: While I'm a terrible housecleaner, I have a variety of favourite eco friendly products. I'm gaga over Nature Clean for my toilet, and an orange-based product for my windows. What are some of your eco favourite cleaning products you can recommend to our readers?

Antonio: I have a line called Organic and Nature - it has citrus and vinegar, as they are the best natural cleansers and stain removers. I also have a all purpose cleanser that cleans from plastic to wood and Bath and kitchen and laundry. I also use the eco balls, which are a substitute to detergent. I've used them for the last 3 years and they ionize the water - that's how the laundry is done.

KITK: Do you find more Americans are being demanding as consumers for more enviro-friendly products?

Antonio: They are looking for more and more green products that are economical.

KITK: When I was in NYC, I would carry around my trash looking for recycling bins (compared to Canada), which never seemed to be around in public spaces. How do you find San Francisco for recycling?

Antonio: New York is different - California is ahead of the rest of the nation. There you will see the recycling bin everywhere in homes and business and schools.

KITK: You spoke earlier that you got into environmental issues due to the birth of your niece. What type of world do you HOPE she will live in when she gets older?

Antonio: The same world that I had. I hope she gets to see a rainforest and all the animals and fruits that I eat and that she can have fresh air.

KITK: Being involved with the Adult Film Industry is such a departure from owning your store and being involved with environmental issues shows quite a contrast to your personality, and while most in the industry blow their earnings on superficial things (cars, booze, drugs), you seem to be taking a totally different course of action. How did most people within that industry take when you wanted to develop your store?

Antonio: All the media blogs, porn magazines and porn websites support me and have been supporting me in the press. Even models shop at my store - they think it's great. I want to say that what you describe to me is the perspective of a porn model but nowadays some aren't like that. I have three models that are good friends - one is vice president of a bank. I would not say the bank but it is big, the other is a biologist and the other is a stripper and he takes care of his baby and is a very responsible person. Porn is porn and our personal lives are different - those who get caught in the porn and that's all they do end up really badly.

KITK: Daryl Hannah is known during her film shoots to request for any catering on set to include washable and reusable materials (such as real plates instead of styrofoam, washable cutlery and food in reusable containers). Do you request the same type of things on your film shoots, Or do you get that "sinking" feeling like I do seeing plastic cutlery and styrofoam plates?

Antonio: I don't ask for anything but I do get bothered when I see plastic bags or any plastic in general. I won't use them. It's no good and it doesn't look nice to go to a party and have them serve you food on plastic. I think "low low!" They don't care for the environment and they are lazy.

KITK: I haven't seen your adult cinema, so I have no way of gauging, but I'm sure the sex is sex, but do you enjoy playing the characters or the acting part of Adult Cinema?

Antonio: I like to play the characters - I think it's fun and hot.

KITK: Do you believe in love?

Antonio: Yes and no. Sometimes it's all about getting to meet someone



and feel comfortable with that person.

KITK: What's a bigger turn-on for you... A nice ass, or a man that recycles and is enviro-friendly?

Antonio: Both. I like a nice ass but I think it's adorable to see someone that uses his brain and heart for some thing else. Looks aren't everything - you can be beautiful like a fruit but if the fruit is bitter you won't eat that fruit and men are the same.

KITK: If you had to direct Senator John McCain in a sex act on camera with another man, what would the scene involve?

Antonio: A big poster of Prop 8 (the recently approved ban on gay marriage in California) that passed to prohibit gay weddings and a hammer to hammer the poster up his ass.

KITK: Have you ever been to either Canada or Finland before? What do you know about these countries?

Antonio: Well, I haven't been. I have friends in Montreal and one of my exes is from Finland - his name was Heiki. I study geography so I know a little of this country and I have many people from Canada that shop at my store and I have to say that they are more friendly than people in the USA.

KITK: You've been an interesting interview Antonio and I think you've given our readers insight not only into acting out ones sexuality on screen, but also about how others touch us in our lives, and the fact that we can believe and achieve goals and dreams. Anything else you'd like to add in closing thoughts?

Antonio: I want to tell people not to judge people because they do porn or they are prostitutes or they are strippers. They are all human and have families and some do it because they like it and some are professional and have other jobs. And if you dream work hard your dream will come true - look at me and look at our new President Obama.

Eco Boutique is located at 4035 18th Street in San Francisco (www.shopecoboutique.com). His latest film "To the Last Man" has been released by Raging Stallion Studios.

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3 QUESTIONS

DEPTH NOT AN ILLUSION

Director Michael Goorjian's Sleeper Film Masterpiece



Looking at a camera, or looking into the eyes of fate? Michael Goorjian in ILLUSION.

So, I'm in Buffalo at my fav store (K-Mart) and they have just racked a bunch of \$5 DVD's where I pick up "Illusion" a newer film with Kirk Douglas and throw it in the cart. Not really sure why, but blame K-Mart for usually each time I'm in the store, I try to pick up some type of film on DVD.

In a Buffalo motel room, we hook up my portable DVD player and put the movie on. What is on the screen blows me away. The film keeps me transfixed to the television, even as the phone rings with the cranky front desk elderly Indian man, telling us we need to check out.

"Illusion" in my books might be easily in the top 10 films of this decade. The story, tells of a film director (Kirk Douglas) giving his final interview on his death bed, who fades out of consciousness and appears in a movie theatre. A former editor is seated with him and explains that it was time to watch a film, or something that resembles film which is a document of his illegitimate son's life (which he never had a relationship with) and shows how his life turned out without his involvement. It takes a nod from "It's a Wonderful Life", but slightly.

Director Michael Goorjian brings to the screen a beautifully shot and acted masterpiece with many twists and turns. With a solid acting background (who's been on Party of Five, CSI, to name just a few), after viewing the film, you wonder why so many critics fell asleep at the wheel offering their praise of "Illusion". Well, here's mine!

While he was currently working on a new directorial project, Michael had taken some time to chat with me and answer, 3 Questions.

KONFLICT IN THE KINO (Dion Conflict) / QUESTION #1:

Illusion is truly one of the greatest films of this decade. Tell us the story behind how it came into being.

Michael Goorjian: I started making Illusion in the beginning of 2001. I didn't have a script or a budget, just the desire to make my own film, and a general concept based on a play I had read by Pierre Corneille called "L'Illusion Comique". The structure of the play is what drew me to it. Essentially, it's about a father who wants to learn about the life of his illegitimate son before he dies. Different periods of the son's life are revealed to him in three vignettes, similar in ways to "A Christmas

Carol." In "Illusion" I turned the father character into an old hollywood film director on his death bed. In a sort of dream, he is taken to an old movie palace which has records of everyone's life on film reels. There he is shown three periods, or "reels" of the life of the son he never knew. It was the clean separation of the different sections of this story that allowed me to shoot over a longer period of time and raise the money as I went. First, I borrowed a camera and with money I had saved up, shot the first "reel" of the son's life. Using the footage of what I had shot, I raised money through independent investors (my parents, old high school teachers, etc.) and 5 months later, shoot the second episode of the son's life. After that I used credit cards to shoot the third and final episode of the son's life. The idea from the beginning was to be able to take what I had shot, which was essentially 3/4 of the film, and use that to attract a big named actor to play the role of the father. It took a long time, but eventually I got the footage and the script to Kirk Douglas who signed on to play the role.

KITK / QUESTION #2:

You also acted in Illusion with Kirk Douglas and directed the film, and I'm curious that when you're in front of the camera, do you have to turn off your directors instinct, or how you handle the multi tasking when you're involved with other characters? Are you acting in your latest project as well?

Michael Goorjian: I am not acting in the film I'm currently working on, however, I do have a project called "Beatrice" that I'm directing in 2010, that I do plan to play a role in. As for wearing both hats in "Illusion", it was difficult. Having a strong team around me, was what made it work. My cinematographer, Robert Humphreys and I have a very good working relationship, and it allowed me to trust that he was getting what I was after even when I wasn't watching a monitor. Also, as a director, I very much enjoy working with actors. So, whether I was in the scene myself or just guiding it from the sidelines, the process for me was not too different.

KITK / QUESTION #3:

The concept of Illusion has the capturing of certain moments in our lives on something that could be, or resembles film. Could you tell me how your last two reels of your life would play, and what those moments would be?

Michael Goorjian: Well, I hope I have a somewhat "happy" final reel. For me, this concept, explored in "Illusion", of objectifying a person's life and looking at it like you would look at a character in a movie, is helpful in seeing that there is more to life than what is on the surface. The adventures, the heartbreaks, the patterns of behavior - all of these aspects of who I think I am are important. However, by stepping back, we can see that quite often there are much deeper themes being playing out. Often we are so caught up in playing our part that we don't recognize this undercurrent of truth.

"Illusion" was released theatrically by Gaiam, a company which usually puts out fitness DVD's and exercise balls. Perhaps they didn't know the rich cinematic masterpiece they had in their hands, but the secret is out! To find out more about the multi-talented Armenian descent actor/director Michael Goorjian, visit his fansite at www.michaelgoorjianonline.com.

Pristina's Musical Prodigy: **Andin Randobrava**

I'm not exactly sure I met Andin at an ice cream parlour in downtown Pristina, Kosovo (if you're ever there – it's called Fellini's and it's great!) but I know that we ended up at the Kosovar fast food restaurant "Route 66" discussing EVERYTHING. If there's ever "a man of the city", in Pristina, it's Andin. Even when he was taking me to the airport, we headed to the pay parking where the attendant let us park gratis because Andin had written a beautiful song he enjoyed. Running Randobrava Records - and also being one of the best studio engineers you could work with in Kosovo - he can play anything on his beloved keyboard, replicate voices, and he has been a strong force on Kosovo's blossoming music scene. After hanging with Andin, I eventually learned that many of my favorite recordings were made by him. The multi-talented Randobrava recently sat down to answer some questions for readers and give us some insight into the behind the scenes workings of Kosovo's recording industry.

KONFLIKT IN THE KINO / DION CONFLICT: Tell us how you got interested in music.

ANDIN RANDOBRAVA: Well, I was born in a musical family. I'm the son of a composer, and I actually grew up surrounded by music. My interest started the moment my fingers got strong enough for me to play the piano. My father used to take me with him to the studios of the radio television of Pristina. They had the legendary MCA mix table recording table.

KITK: Did you find your music skills came with a lot of practice, or somewhat easy?

ANDIN: It's the passion. And with my talent, I felt that since I was born, I've always had this dream of having a studio, and that dream came true.

KITK: When Kosovo was under Serbian rule, did they attempt to develop upcoming artists?

ANDIN: Well our every right was actually stolen from us, so they could do what they wanted. Kosovo had a constitution before it was considered as a Yugoslavian "crahine", but it had all the rulings of a republic. In the time of repression, 1989 I think, Serbia took that constitution and turned us to nothing so everything we did, we did in private. Even with schools and universities, in our homes, we would call patriots the people who had the ability to give such space for our national cause, and we could all be one.

KITK: What got you interested in opening a recording studio?

ANDIN: It was my dream as I said before, and my father used to be a music producer in the biggest studio in Kosovo when there was still no repression, and I always wanted to go with him. He would take me all the time, so I was surrounded with these big studio rooms and the equipment. Imagine what kind of effect this had on me as a kid, so it was always my dream.

KITK: Did you start your studio digitally, or did you have analog equipment?

ANDIN: Well most equipment is digital nowadays, except preamps and mics. I prefer Avalon for my studio, and I also use tube microphones.

KITK: When you need equipment your studio, do you have to look outside of Kosovo, or is it fairly easy for you to go pick up a mic or software?

ANDIN: No it's not easy at all. You can buy a professional soundcard here such as RME-Fireface800, but not an Avalon sp737, so most of the equipment, I have to order from the United States or Germany.

KITK: Tell us about some of the Albanian artists you've worked with.

ANDIN: I've worked with almost with almost everybody in Albanian music and most of the songs I did were all big hits. Some of the artists I worked with are: Adelina Simali, Zanafina Ismaili, Sabri Fejzullahu, Gili,

Mihrije Braha, Tingulli Trent, Hija Jetes, Monika Salihu, Lenora Jakupi, Xuxi, on and on!

KITK: You've recorded some of my favorite Albo artists, and made some of my favorite recordings!

Let's go over

some of these people and talk about how they are to work with and give us some insight into their recording process. Let's start with one of my favorite hip hop groups, Hija e Jetes.

ANDIN: Well Hija Jetes... What can I say? Don Pizhi (frontman) is one of the most precise rappers when it comes to rhythm, and it's good to work with him. He is a cool guy and a nice person to work with. We've worked a lot on many projects together and it was fun producing their albums. Nice memories!

KITK: Zanafina is sexy (with her Bjork sounding voice). How is she to work with?

ANDIN: Well, Zanafina is cool. The most important thing working with her is that, when you make a melody for her, she catches the melody ALWAYS. She is sexy, but I can say she is a hard working lady too.

KITK: You recorded TINGULLI 3, which was one of the first Albo hip hop albums I picked up - which includes one of my fave track by them. How was working with them?

ANDIN: Well - I can say old good times. It was always inspiring and fun working with Tingulli 3, and all of my songs were actually their best hits (including your favourite Dion, "Vesa"). What can I say - lots of good memories. We really did nice stuff.

KITK: Who has been the best person to work with?

ANDIN: One of the best people to work with was Adelina Ismaili (Adelina is THE biggest Albo artist right now). She is the most correct and precise person in the entire Kosovas estrada. It's a part of her character, and that makes her special among the others.

KITK: Switching your studio engineering persona now, there's a great performance on YouTube of you performing "Hasbi Rabi" with Avdush Krosa. Can you tell us a bit about how that came about?

ANDIN: Hahaha! That's a nashid. It's a religious song, I like doing that sometimes. Calling people into peace, and giving positive messages. The performance was held in Prizren (south of Kosovo) on the birthday of the prophet Muhammed and I was an honoured guest as an artist. I was honoured as an artist participating in this big day of the Islamic community, and I also got in Turkish newspapers. Can you imagine that?

KITK: Do you like the direction the Albanian music scene is going, and if not, where would you like it to go?

ANDIN: Well for the moment, I think it's a law problem, but they will soon start to approve some laws (to protect artists), and if everything goes ok, I see my music in Canada, New York, Europe, everywhere!

KITK: If you could record anyone in the world, who would it be?

ANDIN: There are lots of them, but this time I'll choose PHIL PERY because he is old school, and even in his 2009 his album is kicking ass. He has an extraordinary voice. My brother says he jokes he says Phil is the Mariah Carey for all male singers (meaning he is the best).

KITK: Falamederit Andin! Any final comments?

ANDIN: No, just thank you, and I hope this interview has been useful for you and your readers.

One of my favorite tracks Andin was working on while I was there was pop star Monika Salihu's catchy track "Wow". You can check it out on YouTube.



Why We So Nervous?

Canada, Its Media Industry, and the Recession

I'm hoping this article brings up more discussion than a rant, but if it sounds like more of the latter, forgive me.

After hiding out in a boardroom discussing that I'm pretty sure they would be doing cuts within the company (I worked at a television sports network for a decade), we return upstairs. With my half eaten lunch sitting on my window desk overlooking a shady crack house, my boss asks me to "come help her with something". When we hit the boardroom and I see the person from HR there, I know that today I would be facing what others would within my corporation would be facing that day. A little cosmetic "restructuring" and a recession is a good excuse to do this.

In my case, I felt more like I had won a lottery, then a "doom and gloom" scenario. But I've been an exception, rather than the rule. Later in a seminar, I had met many people who had lost their dream day jobs, and now we're trying to find what (and where) they were going to go next in the working world.

Canada, like many countries has been hit by the recession, but frankly not as bad. Technically we went in and out of the recession pretty quickly. Still, this has given the countries bigger media conglomerates a reason to cut more jobs, pay less, and continue their pity party. Some here have cried poverty, while easily banking hundreds of millions in profits and expect not only their employees, but the consumer to feel sorry for them. Boo hoo.

Smaller production companies have felt the pinch as they work making their programming for the larger media empires, because these companies who can afford to pay standard rates, start lowballing everyone from the talent to the behind the scenes people of the industry. The recession has been a convenient excuse for the industry to jack up prices to consumers, but larger corporations to pay less to do this.

While this excuse which boosts the bottom line for Canada's media conglomerates is convenient for now, perhaps much of the industry should worry about an element that will really bring many of its media industry in the eventual red, and that's the lack of invention within the industry.

The media has been so self absorbed in the paranoia of the economy, they have forgotten that calculated risk, in the form of fresh ideas and competing with innovative product for a global marketplace is what will make their companies grow. Sure, we can all repair the wheel, but hell, why not re-invent it?

Our country is falling way behind in exporting innovation, and this is going to hurt us more so than using a recession (which is technically over) as a scapegoat. My tours overseas sometimes give me a gauge on what has been exported successfully overseas, and also placing



Canada on a world stage. Discussion of Canadian artists, products, TV programs, media and movies have stalled at Avril Lavigne and Atom Egoyan. We have fallen off the radar (in a cultural context), except for being in better financial status than our sister country, the USA.

Now that we have reached the bottom line, it's time for us all to think how we're going to go from being on a cultural cruise control, to accelerating and competing more on the global stage. Our paranoia of going broke needs to be replaced by going for the gold. New ideas and fresh thinking are going to be how we survive now. Our culture (and myself) is starving for new ideas on everything from television, to literature, to music.

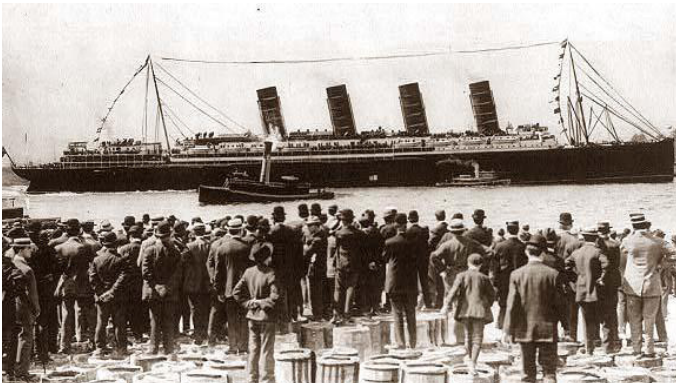
The visionaries will be the ones that not only living out their dreams, but if it's a decent idea with some mass appeal, also can be financially rewarding. If we don't start locking down some of these people, we'll lose them.

While never claiming myself as a visionary, I have felt the ramifications of lack of vision during the so-called recession. After deaf ears in my own country pitching a program of oddball Christian propaganda films, we had taken the tour overseas to two different countries. Our 4am (you read right) screening in Helsinki, had sold out. I finished the tour as a guest of a film festival in Estonia, where before my final show thought about my "bad idea" of a Christian propaganda film festival, while swimming in a heated outdoor pool, overlooking the Gulf of Finland. Two countries, multiple cities on a so called "bad idea".

I never considered the doors closed from working at a company that lacked any kind of vision, but that many doors opened for those that believe in vision. My interest isn't in replicating, but creating. These are the companies that will really survive in the next decade as technology has truly made it easier for us to not only create product, but to choose our options on what we take in. Driving cruise control is nice for awhile, but it eventually gets boring.

So to my fellow Canadians, stop being so nervous about this fucking recession. It's over! Now it's time we create, and move on to the next level. Maybe our thriftiness got us through it, but it's time we take the steps to not only compete in our own country, but with others. The consumer is also getting bored of the lack of innovation, and therefore is looking elsewhere and culturally starving within our own parameters.

Screw the pity party! Let's make stuff!

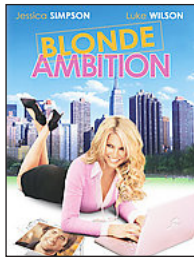


The RMS Lusitania sunk in 1914 after repeated warnings for entering German war zones.

JUNK

BLOND AMBITION (2007)

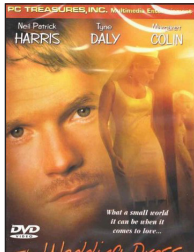
Starring: Jessica Simpson, Luke Wilson
Director: Scott Marshall



This film made the news for earning less than \$2000 in its initial 8-theatre run in Texas over a weekend. Simpson plays a small town girl who goes to New York City and lands an unexpected job at an ad agency after finding her fiancé (who is a hand model) in bed with “some stripper”. Luke Wilson plays the mailroom guy she falls in love with. Simpson’s acting has gotten better (could it not?), the script goes from A to B but that’s part of the film’s problem: it’s just a story told many times over, and better, before. It’s still cute, but it’s nothing exceptional. Look for Penny Marshall (*Laverne and Shirley*) in a bit part, and Andy Dick.

THE WEDDING DRESS (2001)

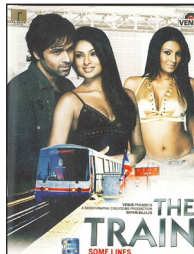
Starring: Neil Patrick-Harris, Tyne Daly
Director: Sam Pillsbury



Travis Cleveland (!) inherits a wedding dress from his aunt who packed it away in WW2 after the death of her fiancé. This TV movie starts with the dress being stolen from his car to when it makes its way back to him via a woman who is truly in love with him and appreciates the dress. This format has been done many times before with movies like Mexico’s “Chevrolet” and the excellent 70’s TV movie “The Gun”. It’s a harmlessly cute way to waste an afternoon and see the recently out former Doogie Howser kiss some girls. Canadians will also spot Donnelly Rhoades, who played “Grant Roberts” in the cult TV series “Danger Bay”.

THE TRAIN (2007)

Starring: Emraan Hashmi, Geeta Basra
Directors: Hasnain Hyderabadwala, Raksha Mistry



Ad executive Vishal (Hashmi) is having problems with his wife while dealing with his sick daughter (who needs a kidney transplant). He becomes smitten with a woman riding on a commuter train. Eventually, they end up in a hotel room together when a bandit comes in and steals his ID, and then starts blackmailing him for money. Can he get back the money (which was to be used for his daughter’s kidney transplant), and rebuild his relationship with his wife? This is Bollywood, so there are songs (and they are good) and while it might be a rip-off of “Derailed”, the up-and-coming in Bollywood cast does a pretty decent job keeping the script and story, on THE TRAIN track. It was shot in Bangkok.

BUSHIDO – “Heavy Metal Payback”

(Sony/BMG Germany)



Sitting in a hotel room in Frankfurt, Germany and watching the best music video channel in the world (VIVA), I got attached to the music of Deutsche “gangster hip-hopper”, Bushido. His latest disc is a nice poetic disc with classical beats thrown in with the solid rhyming. “Flug LH3516” is quite a beautiful track. “Ching Ching” is the ghetto gold track on this platter though (and a BIG hit in Germany). The only dud on it is “Ich Hoffe, Es Geht Dir Gut” with its crappy Modern Talking type medley. All and all, it’s a solid offering and one of the few albums of 2008 that was worth paying 15 EUR for a copy. Too bad he’s terrible live!

ERMALI – “Ti prit edhe pak”

(DEA Kosova)

I used to think Ermali was a spoiled son of a famous Albo entertainer who barely could sing. But with his latest disc he proves he can use his unique sounding voice to make a pretty catchy and unique sounding album. Beginning with “vetem nje nate”, it’s solid Albo pop, and then with a track like “Diferenca” he moves into pop dance with a taste of turbofolk. “Me Fala” with its traditional sound and techno beat made it to my iPod shuffle. It’s pop, but with a definite Albo slant, and very well done.

SHPAT KASAPI – “Sillu Pshtillu”

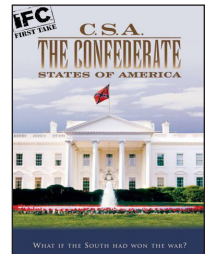
(EMRA COM Kosova)



Shpati’s latest offering begins with the very forgettable “Kush ishte fajtor” while the next track “Njësoj për ty dy” provides the typical catchier Shpat Kasapi sound. “Sillu pshtillu” has a great festive sound. “Nuk jam si ti” might be one of the first tracks I’ve heard by the young lad I truly hate for its generic and a gross “ba da da da” melody. “Heshtja Eshte Flori” began with an off key plead that almost made me wonder why someone committed it to a recording, even if it gets a bit better. With only a few good tracks, and unimaginative music videos to support this offering, I hope his next offering is MUCH better than this. While for English speakers, his name is fun to say, this album is NOT. Also, the computer listings of the tracks are all messed up from the titles.

C.S.A: THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA (2004)

Starring: Larry Peterson, Evamarii Johnson, Rupter Pate
Director: Kevin Willmott



Taking the guise of a BBC documentary to run on an American confederate television network, this mockumentary takes the angle of the South winning the Civil War. In this envisioning, many Afro-Americans run up to Canada (including Elvis). While it actually really probes in developing this “what if” scenario, this mock BBC doc left me sadly neutral. The acting of the “interview” subjects was fine, and technically it’s all there, but as satire I don’t find it particularly funny. Love the concept, on the fence about the flick. It’s presented by cry baby film-maker, Spike Lee.

OZAN – “Bi’ Gecelik”

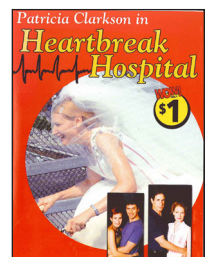
(Tuross Muzik / Turkey)



Starting out with the very catch “Bi’ Gecelik”, you feel like you’re hearing the soundtrack to a wet t-shirt concert in Ankara. Then it moves into sappier romantic pop fare, but distinctly Turkish due to the language. “Canima Yetti” picks the pace back up with a throbbing base beat. This second album by the young Dutch-educated Turk is a nice album, not really full of any surprises, but gives you a track or two of traditional Turkish sounds mixed with an Enrique-esque type voice. He reminds me of Massari with hair.

HEARTBREAK HOSPITAL (2002)

Starring: Chelsea Altman, Patricia Clarkson
Director: Rudolf & Ruedi Gerber




Neely (Altman) is a struggling actress looking for work and frustrated with auditions, supported by her pasta sauce making boyfriend (Damián Bechir

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scenes in Toronto, information about ep,
LP or CDs from here, show list-
ings and loads more.**



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009


Sunday, October 4, 2009

MDC - Maryjane for President (No Label)

RESTARTS - Pied Piper of Punk Rock (No Label)
THE BRISTLES - Malmo 26 (Union Bashing State) (MCR Company)
LET'S DANCE - Calling All Cars (Meaty Beaty)
REVILERS - Tried and True (Patac)
GEARS - Don't Be Afraid to Pogo (Hep Cat)
SLEKS HULLUT - Seksihullu (Roku)
GERM ATTACK - Domination (MCR Company)
ANTIBODIES - Pain Intravenous (Patac)

BURNING LOVE - Lives of the Saints (High Anxiety)
OTBRUIVISE - Their System Fails (Die Ende)
I WALK THE LINE - Trouble Seeker (Combat Rock)
RUMOURS - The Chain (Self-Released)
SPASTIX - Terror Uber Wertburg (Matula)

BLACK FLAG - Spray Paint (SS1)
BEAR PROOF SUIT - Digging a Ditch (Urban People)
DEEP SLEEP - Face Down Dead (Grave Mistake)
BLANK CANS - ... (LP 5)



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THE ARCHIVES

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